

GROUNDED IN THE SACRED

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ABSTRACT

This article works from the understanding that as human beings our experience of the world is constantly mediated through our bodies and yet our experience of the sacred can sometimes seem to be ephemeral or transient. Faith in a transcendent God can be difficult to sustain when we face real challenges to the health of our bodies. Mikel Dufrenne says that we discover who we are within a work of art because the work awakens us to ourselves. When we see art with the full range of our senses it has the ability to awaken us to the presence of the sacred in our lived experience of the world. In this article I will explore the significance of being grounded in the sacred by a deepening and mutual relationship with art, in light of the challenges to faith and flourishing that are part of living with serious illness.

KEYWORDS

disability, illness, art, embodiment, sacramentality, practice-led research